

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3920

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, AO, SG

SUBJ: SENGHOR DECLARES SENEGAL'S POLICY ON ANGOLA UNCHANGED,
BUT INTELLECTUALS CRITICIZE HIS ANTI-MPLA POSITION

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1. SUMMARY. ON FEB. 22, PRESIDENT SENGHOR DECLARED GOS POS-

ITION ON ANGOLA WAS UNCHANGED, SINCE POLICY WAS BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF OPPOSING EXTRA-AFRICAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN CONFLICTS. FOR THAT REASON SENEGAL IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PREVENT INTRA-AFRICAN WAR OVER WESTERN SAHARA AND DJIBOUTI. STATEMENT SKIRTED REPORTER'S EXPLICIT QUESTION ON RECOGNIZING ANGOLA. REFLECTING LOCAL CRITICISM OF SENGHOR'S POSITION ON ANGOLA BY INTELLECTUALS AND OTHER GROUPS, RECENT MAGAZINE ARTICLE JUSTAPOSED OPEN LETTER ARGUING SENEGAL HAD NOTHING TO GAIN FROM LEADING CAMPAIGN AGAINST MPLA WITH SENGHOR'S RESPONSE INSISTING THAT GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT MUST APPLY TO ALL BLOCS AND ANGOLAN SOLUTION SHOULD NO MORE DE DICTATED BY MOSCOW AND HAVANA THAN BY WASHINGTON OR PRETORIA. END SUMMARY.

2. UPON PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S RETURN TO DAKAR FEB. 22 FROM TRIP TO GUADALOUPE, MARTINIQUE AND HAITI, RREPORTERS ASKED HIM HOW SENEGALESE POLICY ON ANGOLA HAD EVOLVED IN VIEW OF OAU RECOGNITION OF MPLA. HE REPLIED THAT "POSITION OF SENEGAL HAS NOT EVOLVED, BECAUSE SENEGAL'S INTERNATIONAL POLICY IS NOT BASED ON CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT ON PRINCIPLES." SENGHOR SAID, "MORE THAN EVER, WE THINK THAT WE MUST KEEP AFRICA OUTSIDE THE WAR BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST, AND WE THINK IT DANGEROUS WHEN AFRICAN STATES INVOLVED IN INTERNAL CONFLICTS OR CONFLICTS WITH ONE ANOTHER CALL FOR EXTRA-AFRICAN ASSISTANCE... PARTICULARLY IF IT IS THESE EXTRA-AFRICAN STATES WHICH ARE TO IMPOSE SOLUTIONS. IF THAT BE THE CASE, IT WAS NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE TO DEMAND INDEPENDANCE. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO PREVENT INTRA-AFRICAN WAR OVER WESTERN SAHARA OR DJIBOUTI".

3. FEB. 16 ISSUE OF DAKAR-BASED MONTHLY "L'OUEST AFRICAINE" CONTAINS OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR SIGNED BY IBRAHIMA SIGNATE, MAGAZINE'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, AND PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR BABACAR SINE, CALLING ON SENGHOR TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. LETTER CALLS SENEGAL'S POSITION AGAINST MPLA "ASTONISHING" IN VIEW OF "OBJECTIVELY CORRECT POSITIONS" OF SENEGALESE DIPLOMACY ON OTHER ISSUES. WRITERS STRESS HISTORIC SOVIET SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND ARGUE MASSIVE SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION OBLIGED RPA TO SEEK CUBAN HELP. CUBA IS SEEN AS LITTLE COUNTRY WITH LARGE BLACK MINORITY "WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD PRIVILEGE TO EXPERIENCE ALL FORMS OF AGGRESSION OF WHICH IMPERIALISM WAS CAPABLE". MPLA IS NO MORE COMMUNIST THAT PAIGC OR FRELIMO, ACCORDING TO LETTER, AND ROBERTO AND SAVIMBI ARE TAINTED BY LONGSTANDING TIES TO CIA DOCUMENTED BY NEW YORK TIMES. WRITER CONCLUDE: "OUR CONVICTION IS THAT SENEGAL GAINS NOTHING BY LEADING A CRUSADE AGAINST RPA RECOGNITION."

4. SENGHOR'S REPLY, PUBLISHED IN SAME MAGAZINE, ACCUSES WRITERS OF "POLITICAL SENTIMENTALISM". SENGHOR POINTS OUT THAT, CONTRARY TO PAIGC AND FRELIMO CASES, PORTUGAL DID NOT ACCORD POWER TO ONE MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA. HE ARGUES OAU AT ADDIS WOULD HAVE COMPROMISED LETTER AND SPIRIT OF CHARTER BY IMPOSING GOVERNMENT IN INTERNAL CONFLICT. SENGHOR CALLS PROBLEM STRICTLY AFRICAN AFFAIR WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED BY DIALOGUE BETWEEN THREE MOVEMENTS. HE RECALLS THAT SENEGAL HAS NEVER HIDDEN ITS CLOSE TIES AND AFFINITY WITH UNITA, AND WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED UNITA IF IT HAS WISHED TO YIELD TO IDEOLOGY OR SENTIMENT. SENGHOR POINTS OUT THAT ALLEGED HELP TO SAVIMBI AND ROBERTO FROM U.S. WAS NOT NECESSARILY DIFFERENT FROM AID SOVIETS GAVE NETO. SENGHOR ARGUES THAT POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, IF IT IS NOT JUST FACADE, MUST APPLY TO ALL BLOCS; ANGOLA REQUIRES AFRICAN SOLUTION NOT DICTATED BY MOSCOW, HAVANA, WASHINGTON OR PRETORIA. "THE TRUTH IS, FOR US, THERE CANNOT BE BAD IMPERIALISTS ON ONE SIDE AND GOOD IMPERIALISTS ON THE OTHER." SENGHOR REITERATES SENEGAL'S CONDEMNATION OF ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, INCLUDING THAT BY SOUTH AFRICA.

5. COMMENT: MAGASINE EXCHANGE REFLECTS PRO-MPLA DISPOSITION PREVALENT IN SENEGALESE LABOR, INTELLECTUAL AND STUDENT CIRCLES (AS WELL AS IN OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY-DAKAR 7288) WHERE CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S POSITION ON ANGOLA HAS BEEN QUIETLY BUT WIDELY VOICED SINCE ADDIS ABABA MEETING. SURETE HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT IT HAS BEEN KEPT BUSY MONITORING DISSIDENT LOCAL OPINION ON GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO ANGOLA QUESTION. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING NO CHANGE IN ANGOLA POLICY, AIRPORT ARRIVAL REMARKS ARE SIGNIFICANT IN OMISSION OF EARLIER STATEMENTS OF AFFINITY WITH UNITA, SKIRTING OF QUESTION OF MPLA RECOGNITION, AND EMPHASIS PLACED ON DISPUTES ELSEWHERE ON CONTINENT WHERE INTRA-AFRICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISPUTES COULD LEAD TO OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.
AGGREY

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